IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of:	Pankaj K. Jha
Serial No.:	09/535,717
Title:	HYBRID DATA TRANSPORT SCHEME OVER OPTICAL NETWORKS
Filed:	March 27, 2000
Attorney Docket No.:	0325.00344
Examiner:	George, K.
Art Unit:	2663
In Response To:	Office Action mailed July 30, 2004

I hereby certify that this letter, the response or amendment attached hereto are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on __October 15, 2004__ .

By: _Jan M. Dunbar_
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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 30, 2004 please amend the above-identified application as follows:

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<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

<u>**(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)**</u>

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice. Please add claim 22.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to transmit information via a frame in said network, said frame comprising a plurality of packets, wherein at least one of said packets has (i) a header section having a plurality of identification portions, (ii) a header error portion, (iii) a label portion located before said header error portion, ~~and~~ (iv) a payload error portion <u>and (v) a packet length error portion</u>.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a Synchronous Optical Network and a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy fiber optic network.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to

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store a first error check information of said header section and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store a second error check information of a payload area of said packet, said second error check information being independent of said header section.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to transmit information via a frame in said network, said frame comprising a plurality of packets, wherein at least one of said packets has (i) a header section having a plurality of identification portions, (ii) a header error portion, (iii) a label portion located before said header error portion, and (iv) a payload error portion; and

a plurality of nodes coupled to said network, wherein one or more of said plurality of nodes is an upstream node configured to transfer said frame and one or more of said plurality of nodes is a downstream node configured to determine that said upstream node is faulty based on said payload error portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further

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configured to perform a discard of said at least one packet upon detecting an error.

7.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured to determine a data error in response to said payload error portion of said at least one packet.

8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~7~~ 5, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a ~~first address portion having one or more addresses~~ packet reuse portion located before said header error portion.

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~8~~ 5, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a data identifier located before said header error portion and configured to identify a data type.

10.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a data payload.

11.   (CANCELED)

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12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a control word configured to control said at least one packet.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises an identity portion configured to identify a destination node of said network.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein said label portion comprises a Multi-Protocol Label Switching label portion.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each of said nodes being configured to receive and transmit one or more of a plurality of packets, at least one of said packets comprising (i) a first portion configured to store payload error information, (ii) a header length, (iii) a second portion configured to store header error information and (iv) a label portion located before said header error information.

17.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting a plurality of packets between two or more nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(A)   adding a header section having ~~a plurality of~~ ~~identification portions~~ a fragmentation condition identification portion, a packet type identification portion, a header error portion and a label portion located before said header error portion to each of said plurality of packets received at an upstream node of said nodes;

(B)   adding a payload error portion to each of said packets without said payload error portion received at said upstream node; and

(C)   transmitting said plurality of packets in a frame to a downstream node of said nodes.

18.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

19.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 17, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store a first error check information of said header section and (ii) said payload error portion is configured to store a second error check information of a payload area of said packet, said second error check information being independent of said header section.

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20.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein said downstream node is further configured to perform the step of:

discarding at least one of said packets upon detecting an error in said at least one packet.

21.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ A method ~~according to claim 17, further~~ for transmitting a plurality of packets between two or more nodes of a network, comprising the step of:

(A) adding a header section having a plurality of identification portions, a header error portion and a label portion located before said header error portion to each of said plurality of packets received at an upstream node of said nodes;

(B) adding a payload error portion to each of said packets without said payload error portion received at said upstream node;

(C) transmitting said plurality of packets in a frame to a downstream node of said nodes; and

(D) framing at least one of said packets with a Simple Data Link protocol including a packet length portion and a packet length error portion.

22.   (NEW) The method according to claim 21, wherein each of said packets further comprises an address portion configured to store one or more addresses.